

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated August 30, 2007. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 2, 4 and 39-43 are under consideration in this application. Claim 2 is being amended, as set forth in the above marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to correct formal errors and/or to better recite or describe the features of the present invention as claimed. New claims 42-43 are being added. All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification, especially Fig. 7. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 2, 4 and 39-40 were still rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuta et al. (US Patent No. 6,903,794) in view of Chang (US 2003/0117543), and claims 2, 4 and 39-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over newly cited Kuwashiro (US 6,191,838) in view of Terao et al. (US Patent No. 6,342,932). These rejections have been carefully considered, but are most respectfully traversed, as more fully discussed below.

The flat panel display device (Fig. 22; pp. 19-20) of the invention (the elected embodiment depicted in Fig. 7; pp. 34-36), as now recited in claim 2, comprises: a display panel PNL which is shaped as a rectangular board, a frame member UFM different from the display panel PNL which is mounted on a back surface of the display panel PNL, a first board CNTS mounted with a first connector CNT which inputs video data to be displayed on the display panel from an external device and which is arranged on a back side of the display panel PNL (also on the back surface of the first board CNTS as recited in a new claim 42), and a second board TCNS having one end mounted with a display control circuit TCON (a cross-sectional view Fig. 7C taken along c—c in Fig. 7A) and having the other end arranged in-between the display panel PNL and the first board CNTS in a direction

perpendicular to the display panel PNL and connected to the display panel PNL and the first board CNTS (a cross-sectional view Fig. 7B taken along b—b in Fig. 7A; e.g., via the male and female connectors cnt5 in Fig. 7B; claim 40) to transmit the video data from the first connector CNT to the display control circuit TCON. The first board CNTS and the second board TCNS are physically separated from each other. The second board TCNS is arranged to be brought into contact with a region of a back surface of the display panel PNL except for a display portion, and the first board CNTS is arranged to be brought into contact with a back surface of the frame member UFM.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of cited prior art references discloses, teaches or suggests (1) such “a first board CNTS mounted with a first connector CNT which inputs video data to be displayed on the display panel from an external device and which is arranged on a back side of the display panel PNL,” and (2) such “a second board physically separated from the first board, **having one end** mounted with a display control circuit TCON **and having the other end** arranged in-between the display panel PNL and the first board CNTS and connected to the display panel PNL and the first board CNTS to transmit the video data from the first connector CNT to the display control circuit TCON” as recited in claim 2.

Since the alleged second board 15 in Fukuta does not overlap with the display panel (Fig. 1) in plan view, it is NOT arranged between the display panel 10 and the alleged first board 3 in a direction perpendicular to the display panel 10. Even if, arguendo, Fukuta’s connection electrode 15 overlapped with the display panel 10 such that it is arguably arranged between the display panel 10 and the alleged first board 3 in a direction perpendicular to the display panel 10, the alleged second board 15 does not “have one end mounted with a display control circuit TCON and have the other end arranged in-between the display panel PNL and the first board CNTS and connected to the display panel PNL and the first board CNTS to transmit the video data from the first connector CNT to the display control circuit TCON” as does the present invention. Instead, the alleged second board 15 has the same end (rather than two different ends) arranged in-between the display panel PNL and the first board CNTS, and then mounted with the alleged display control circuit 6 (Fig. 1).

As admitted by the Examiner (p. 3, 2nd to last paragraph of the outstanding Office Action), Fukuta fails to provide such a “first connector CNT which is arranged on a back surface of the first board CNTS” as in the present invention. Chang’s first connector 23 (Fig. 2) was relied upon by the Examiner to provide such a teaching. However, Chang fails to compensate for Fukuta’s deficiencies as discussed above.

Regarding claim 42, Chang’s connector 23 is provided on a display device; however,

the signal input end 23 is a part of the flexible PCS 23 for mounting a driving IC 3 (Fig. 2; Abstract). Chang's board for the connectors and the board for a display control circuit are the same, rather than different as those of the present invention. As such, Chang's connector 23 for inputting video data to be displayed on the display panel from an external device is arranged on a back surface of a second board mounted with a display control circuit, rather than "on a back surface of a first board physically separated from the second board" as the first connector CNT of the present invention.

Regarding Kuwashiro (Fig. 3), the alleged second board 611 does not "have one end mounted with a display control circuit TCON and have the other end arranged in-between the display panel PNL and the first board CNTS and connected to the display panel PNL and the first board CNTS to transmit the video data from the first connector CNT to the display control circuit TCON" as recited in claim 2. Instead, the alleged second board 611 the alleged display control circuit 621 mounted in the center, rather than an end. In addition, the whole alleged second board 611 is arranged in-between the display panel 3 and the alleged first board 711, rather than an end of the board 621.

Terao was relied upon by the Examiner (p. 5, last paragraph to p. 6 of the outstanding Office Action) to provide the frame member of the present invention. However, Terao fails to compensate for Kuwashiro's deficiencies as discussed above.

Regarding claim 43, both the alleged first board 3 in Fukuta (Fig. 1) and the alleged first board 711 in Kuwashiro (Fig. 3) are mounted with more than two connectors, rather than "only the first connector and another connector connected to the second board" as recited in claim 43.

Applicants contend that the cited prior art references and their combinations fail to teach or disclose each and every feature of the present invention as recited in at least independent claim 2. As such, the present invention as now claimed is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the rejections raised in the Office Action. The withdrawal of the outstanding prior art rejections is in order, and is respectfully solicited.

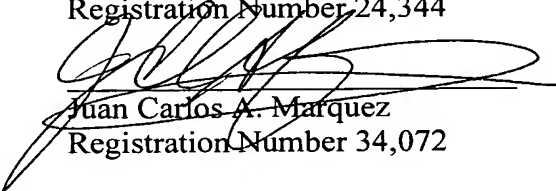
Conclusion

In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicant respectfully contends that the prior art references cannot anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344



Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200
January 23, 2008

SPF/JCM/JT